

[J. P. Scofield]

S241 - LA Dup.

FORM A Circumstance of Interview

NAME OF WORKER George Hartman ADDRESS 2438 W. Lincoln, Nebraska

DATE Nov. 7, 1938 SUBJECT Folklore

1. Name and address of informant. [J. P. Scofield?], 441 N. 28
2. Date and time of interview. Monday Nov. 7, 1 to 3.
3. Place of interview. 441 No. 28th .
4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant. None.
5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you. None.
6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc. Nice home, comfortably furnished. Eight rooms.

FORM B Personal History of Informant.

NAME OF WORKER George Hartman ADDRESS 2438 W. Lincoln, Nebr.

DATE Nov. 7, 1938 SUBJECT Folklore

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT J. P. Scofield, 441 N. 28.

1. Ancestry. Scotch-Irish.

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2. Place and date of birth. New York, Jan. 19, 1864.
3. Family.
4. Place lived in, with dates. New York 1864-1880, Kansas 1880-1902, Nebraska 1897-1938;
5. Education, with dates. 8th grade.
6. Occupations and accomplishments, with dates. Storekeeper.
7. Special skills and interests. None at present.
8. Community and religious activities. Presbyterian
9. Description of informant. Small, white haired, stout.
10. Other points gained in interview.

FORM C Text of Interview (Unedited)

NAME OF WORKER George Hartman ADDRESS 2438 N. Lincoln, Nebr.

DATE Nov. 7, 1938 SUBJECT Folklore

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT J.P. Scofield, 441 No. 28th St.

We came to Nebraska in 1897 from Kansas, because we had a drouth in Kansas. Settled in the town of DeWitt where I engaged in storekeeping. I was born in New York and migrated to Kansas where we first engaged in farming. Kansas didn't look as good as Nebraska [we?] in those days hence the change to Nebraska. A Practical Joke [????]

I have a story here about a character named "Dobin Dick." A Practical Joke

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Man named Dobin Dick," a blacksmith in DeWitt and he lived there thirty five years ago All of the people had fun with Mr. Dobin Dick.

One day he was asked if he ever hunted "Snips" and he said no. Four of five men made it up that they would go snipe hunting it show him how it was done. They gave him a gunny sack to hold, and went about two miles from town to a big draw. Dobin Dick layed down flat on the ground and stretched the sack over his head. The other fellows went up the draw to shake the snipes down. They left for town with Dobin Dick holding the sack. He layed there for an hour and mosied back to town very angry.

Great horror in the old days was the prairie fire killing animals in its run. We plowed a strip around the house to stop fires and backfires other fires that were coming.

For stables we put up a fork of a tree, with poles across the fork with straw for covering. Our first home was built this way. There was no floor 2 just the sod. and a quilt for the door. Old song.

"Little old Log Cabin in the Lane." I'm getting old and feeble and I cannot work no more. I've layed the rust bladed hoe to rest. and ol' massie and ol' missun, are dead and sleeping side by side and their spirits now are rolling with the blast' The happy days to me were long years ago When the darkies used to gather around the door They used to dance at night, and I played the old Banjo But alas, I cannot play them anymore. Chorus. The chimmey's falling down, the sides are caving in. The roof lets in the sunshine and the rain And the only friend thats left me Is this good old dog of mine, In the little old log cabin in the lane.

In the early day there was some awful times that people don't realize now how bad they were. Early civil war soldiers many times had to drink stagnut water from pools after pushing the scum off. We never had indians come to our house.

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The rattlesnakes, polecats, wolves were very thick.

How we made soap.

We used a barrel filled with ashes. The barrel set on a flat rock. A little ditch was out around the barrel and a trough ran out of the edge of the rock. Water was poured on the ashes which formed a lye which came out on the trough. We would save all scrap of fat meat, meat rinses 3 and then put the lye over them to make a soap.

One day the wolves came right in the house and drug out the meat rinses. One night the wolves tried to lure our cow away by cutting the rope of the hariat of the cow and trying to pull the rope and the cow. The rope was cut in several pieces but the cow warded them off. Here Rattlesnakes were thick in farm houses and even dropped on our beds. I was bitten by a rattler and had to drink a half-pint of whiskey which didnt do any good. My leg swelled, almost twice as large as usual. My brother was bitten and coal-oil and salt was used which drew out all the poison. People used to suck the poison for snakes out with their mouths.

Sorghum was raised for molasses. John Cake and mollasses were favorite dishes.

In the early day in the timbers were trees, which were hollow and had honey in them. The first person to find the tree would mark it as his own The tree would then be cut down and split to get the honey out. Lots of trees and a hollow tree was no good and never was a objection to anyone cutting a honey tree down. As much as one tub of honey would be drained from one tree.

Groceries thirty, forty or more years ago used to about all come in barrels. The grocers didn't even have sacks and used a sheet of paper wrapped in funnel shapes. Codfish sold in just one large slab. Sugar, oatmeal, in big barrels. Mollasses was in barrels and people

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would come in with a jug to buy it. Matches would come in a block and each match would be broke off seperately. These matches just came in a block of wood.

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One superstition on how to get rid of a wart was to take a dishrag rub it over the wart, bury the rag and the wart would disappear.

People thought they could wish a wart on to other people, but it never seemed to work out.

We used to make coffee out of Rye. The rye was parched then ground. Sassafras was drank for teas as also sage. Our main home made medicine was sulphur, cream of tartar and molasses.